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September 18, 2001

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor, Fifth District
County of Los Angeles
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S 2001-2002 UNMET NEEDS AND PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

As I noted in my budget letter to you dated April 16, 2001, many weaknesses and needs of our local Criminal Justice System must be addressed on the County Government level.

I recommended to your Board a number of public protection programs. These are priorities to meet unmet needs. Your decision regarding funding these programs will be addressed September 25th when the recommended 2001-2002 County Budget is finalized. The cost of the seven program recommendations is approximately \$9.55 million. Each represents a thoughtful response appropriate to a variety of specific and real needs.

California, which last year led the nation in terrorist threats, now has one of the toughest anti-terrorism laws in the nation. The 1999 Hertzberg-Alarcon California Prevention of Terrorism Act, drafter by Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney John Allen Ramseyer with law enforcement assistance, would not have stopped last week's day of infamy. It can serve, however, to protect California and Los Angeles County residents from nuclear, chemical or biological terrorist attacks in the future.

The problem today is that Los Angeles County no longer has a cohesive law enforcement mechanism in place to address future threats posed by a variety of criminal conspiracies including those of terrorist organizations.

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One component of an overall response is to fund one of the unmet priority program needs recommended by me to you (i.e. the Organized Crime/Hate Crime Division, which includes targeting terrorist groups as part of its mission).

I have now amended the request for the Organized Crime Division to include one squad of investigators to specifically target terrorism, and coordinate with federal and local agencies to detect, deter and prevent politically motivated violence. Therefore, my recommendation for the Organized Crime Division has been increased from 25 to 31 positions, at a total cost of \$2,769,043.

Fully funding this new Division would put teeth into Section 11415 of the California Penal Code dealing with specific chemicals, biological agents and radioactive substances that could be used by terrorist groups. It would also support the use of legal tools and investigative techniques in combating terrorist conspiracies.

We have seen in recent events that federal agencies routinely notify each other of the movement of international figures into our County. We need local law enforcement counterparts to assist the federal agencies in the very labor intensive effort of monitoring such individuals. It is a mission which transcends all levels of government.

Specifically, full funding, as requested, would accomplish the following:

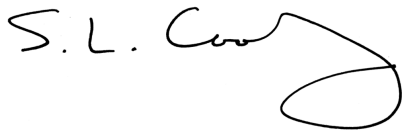
1. Place highly trained, seasoned investigators on multi-agency Los Angeles County-based local, state and national task forces aimed at combating organized criminal activity, including those with terrorist objectives.
2. Provide the ability to use wiretaps in this area of present threat. Penal Code section 629.52(a) authorizes the use of wiretaps to prove cases of conspiracy to commit murder and bombings. Only the District Attorney can authorize an application for a wiretap in Los Angeles County. By law, the District Attorney's Office exclusively manages judicially approved wiretaps pursuant to California law.

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3. Have prosecutors and investigators implement sophisticated prosecutorial and investigative techniques including, but not limited to, the following: specialized search warrant techniques, use of the material witness law, and use of conspiracy laws as a theory of criminal liability to stop horrendous criminal acts at the planning stage.
4. Establish communication and cooperation between and among all levels of law enforcement – municipal, county and federal in combating those capable of implementing insidious plots that threaten our residents.

The terrorist challenge is obvious and real. We must meet it. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Cooley", followed by a large, stylized circular flourish.

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

tla

c: Each Supervisor
David E. Janssen, CAO